

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The screening A method of claim 13, of screening for a nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (c):~~

(a) a step for supplying ECAT4 to a somatic cell comprising a gene resulting from knocking in a gene comprising a drug resistance gene to the ECAT4 gene, and bringing it into contact with a test substance,

(b) a step following the aforementioned step (a), for determining the presence or absence of surviving cells in a selection medium, and

(c) a step for selecting a test substance allowing the emergence of the surviving cells as a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance candidate.

16. (Original) The screening method of claim 15, wherein the somatic cell is a somatic cell homozygously comprising a gene resulting from knocking in a gene comprising a drug resistance gene to the ECAT4 gene.

17.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The screening method of claim ~~1~~, 15, wherein the source of the somatic cell is a knock-in mouse comprising ~~a~~ the gene resulting from knocking in ~~a marker~~ the drug resistance gene to ~~an~~ ECAT the ECAT4 gene.

23.-70. (Canceled)

71. (New) The screening method of claim 15, wherein the somatic cell further comprises a marker gene present at a position permitting expression control by the expression control region of an ECAT gene selected from ECAT3, ECAT5, and Oct3/4.

72. (New) The screening method of claim 71, further comprising the following steps (d) and (e):

(d) a step following the aforementioned step (a), for determining the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and

(e) a step for selecting a test substance allowing the emergence of the cells as a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance candidate.

73. (New) The screening method of claim 72, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene different from that knocked-in to the ECAT4 gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.

74. (New) The screening method of claim 15, wherein the somatic cell further comprises a marker gene present at a position permitting expression control by the expression control region of an ECAT gene selected from ECAT3 and ECAT5.

75. (New) The screening method of claim 74, further comprising the following steps (d) and (e):

(d) a step following the aforementioned step (a), for determining the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and

(e) a step for selecting a test substance allowing the emergence of the cells as a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance candidate.

76. (New) The screening method of claim 75, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene different from that knocked-in to the ECAT4 gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.